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(54) Title: RECORDING AND REPRODUCING SYSTEM FOR SIMULTANEOUS RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION VIA AN INFORMATION CARRIER			
(57) Abstract <p>A recording and reproducing system for recording a first information flow on an information carrier and simultaneously processing a further information flow via the information carrier is disclosed. The system comprises a reading/writing unit (42) for alternatively writing and reading information on the information carrier, and buffer means (47) for buffering information during recording and/or reproduction. The system comprises control means for controlling the recording of the first information flow in dependence on a data rate required for processing the further information flow. The system may thereto comprise controllable compression means (22) or a controllable transcoder (48). At a certain transmission rate of the system, the available data rate can be used to more advantage during recording, while there is always a minimum data rate (8) available for recording in the simultaneous reproduction/recording mode.</p>			

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Recording and reproducing system for simultaneous recording and reproduction via an information carrier.

The invention relates to a recording and reproducing system for recording a first information flow on an information carrier and simultaneously processing a further information flow via the information carrier, the system comprising a reading/writing unit for scanning the information carrier with the scanning velocity either for writing or reading information on the information carrier, and buffer means for buffering information during recording and/or reproduction.

Such a recording and reproducing system is known from EP 0594241 (PHN 14.217). The known system comprises a random-access main memory for storing information, such as a disc memory. Via an input buffer memory the input of the main memory is coupled to an input for receiving an information flow. The information flow represents a continuous-time signal, for example, a video signal after digitization and compression. The output of the main memory is coupled to an output via an output buffer memory. In the example the information flow is reproduced on the output and can be reconverted into the video signal by decompression. The system comprises a read/write head for reading information from the disc memory and writing the information in the disc memory, and a system control for alternately reading and writing, so that, in operation, the input buffer is kept substantially empty and the output buffer is kept substantially full. With such a system for video signals, a video program can be reproduced with a short or long delay, while the program itself has not terminated yet. A user may start watching a partly recorded program, while at the same time a remaining part of the program is being recorded. Alternatively, if the user's direct viewing of a video program is interrupted, for example, due to a telephone call, with the system he may start the recording and continue viewing without any loss after the interruption.

A problem of the known system is that it is arranged for a fixed recording process.

It is an object of the invention to provide a recording and reproducing system in which the recording and/or the reproduction is effected more efficiently. For this purpose, the system according to the invention is characterized in that the system comprises control means for controlling the recording of the first information flow in dependence on a

required data rate for processing the further information flow. This provides the advantage that the recording may be adapted in dependence on the circumstances, such as current or expected future simultaneous recording and reproduction. As a result, the largest possible part of the transmission capacity of the system is utilized, so that the transmission capacity of the system is spread over writing and reading in a well balanced manner. In order to have sufficient writing capacity available for future simultaneous recording/reproduction, the current recording is adapted; for current simultaneous recording/reproduction, the transmission capacity is optimally utilized. This is all the more an advantage compared to a higher transmission capacity less efficiently used, because the higher transmission capacity would make a system more complex and sensitive to wear and defects. A higher and/or more stable quality of the reproduced signal is realized with the available transmission capacity.

An embodiment of the recording and reproducing system according to the invention is characterized in that the system comprises compression means for controllably compressing the first information flow during recording, and in that the control means are arranged for controlling the compression means in dependence on the required data rate. This is advantageous in that the degree of compression is adapted to the required data rate and, consequently, as much as possible the available bits are used, so that the signal is compressed the least possible and provides a high quality on reproduction. This is particularly an advantage for information flows that have a variable bit rate, such as MPEG-2 digital video. Further embodiments of the recording and reproducing system according to the invention and advantages hereof are described in dependent claims and the explanation that follows.

These and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows an information carrier of a writable type,

Fig. 2 shows a recording and reproducing system including controllable compression means,

Fig. 3 shows a compression unit,

Fig. 4 shows a recording and reproducing system including a transcoder,

Fig. 5 shows a recording and reproducing system including adapted control means, and

Fig. 6 shows in diagrams the curves of the data rate.

In the drawing Figures, elements corresponding to elements already described carry like reference numerals.

Fig. 1 shows a disc-shaped information carrier 1 of a rewritable type such as, for example, a CD-E (Compact Disc Erasable). The information carrier comprises a track 9 intended for recording, which track is arranged according to a helical pattern of windings. The windings may also be arranged concentrically in lieu of helically. The track 9 is indicated on the information carrier by a servo pattern in which, for example, a pregroove enables a read/write head to follow the track 9 during the scanning operation. Furthermore, the servo pattern may contain information about the position along the track such as, for example, a time indication from the beginning of the track. The information carrier has a recording layer which can be written in optical or magneto-optical manner by a system for writing information blocks in the form of patterns of marks. The CD-E has, for example, a recording layer of phase-change material. A description of the recording and reading of a CD and the use of a track and pregroove may be found in the title "Principles of optical disc systems" by Bouwhuis et al., ISBN 0-85274-785-3. The invention may also be applied to other disc-shaped rewritable information carriers such as, for example, magnetic hard disks, or to information carriers of different form for which writing and reading in separate areas of the information carrier can be alternated rapidly, such as optical tape.

Figs. 2, 4 and 5 show a recording and reproducing system for recording a first information flow on a disc-shaped information carrier and simultaneously processing a further information flow via the information carrier which, for example, can be written magneto-optically or optically (via phase change material). The system comprises driving means 45 for causing the information carrier 1 to rotate and a read/write head 42 for scanning the track, which track is indicated on the information carrier, for example, by the servo pattern for generating servo signals. The read/write head 42 is positioned in radial direction over the track by servo means 44. The read/write head 42 scans the track with known tracking and focusing methods. The information applied to the input of the writing means 41 is split up into blocks in the writing means 41, as required, and converted into a write signal for the read/write head 42. The writing means 41 comprise, for example, an error coder and a channel coder. When read, the signal of the read/write head 42 is reconverted into the information in the reading means 43 which comprises, for example, a channel decoder and an error corrector. The system comprises buffer means 47 for buffering via the writing means 41, information which is applied to the input during writing, and/or for

buffering, via the reading means 43, information which is meant for the output during reading. The system further includes a system control 46 which controls the drive means 45, the servo means 44, the writing means 41, the reading means 43 and the buffer means 47 and is arranged for executing the procedures to be described hereinafter.

5 Simultaneous recording and reproduction is realized by the system control 46 in the following manner. The read/write head 42 alternately reads and writes in two separate areas on the information carrier. A first information flow on the input is conveyed through the buffer means 47 and the information is written in a first area, while a second information flow can be produced on the output by conveying the information read from a
10 second area of the information carrier 1 to the output through the buffer means 47. The information flows represent continuous-time signals, such as, audio or video. In said Patent Specification EP 0594241 is described a system and an embodiment for such a procedure in which the use of the buffer is improved. However, this requires a system that has a sufficiently high transmission rate. A high transmission rate, however, has a significant effect
15 on the complexity and the cost price of the system and, moreover, leads to greater sensitivity to wear and ageing of the system and defects on the information carrier.

Operating the system according to the invention may be presented to the user in a simple manner by the use of concepts of functions which a VCR has (Video Cassette Recorder). The system has keys referenced "Pause", "Resume", "Fast Forward" and
20 "Backward". When watching a television program, the user may be called away. The "Pause" key then results in the start of a recording. On his return, the user presses "Resume", so that simultaneously reproduction (from the moment of being called away) starts and recording continues. When a commercial is shown then, the user presses "Fast Forward" so that the commercial is reproduced in the fast mode or is (partly) skipped. An
25 indicator on the system may then indicate how much time the user still lags behind for the live broadcast, while at regular intervals a picture is reproduced in a small format. With other operating functions it is possible to make a direct leap ahead in time. After "Fast Forward" for a rather long period of time, the lagged time has fallen back to zero and the user again watches the broadcast live and the recording may be stopped. The system may
30 always or on request be switched to the recording mode while the user is watching a program. There is then the possibility of repeating a part via the "Backward" key, for example, a goal in a soccer match, while the match is continued to be recorded.

Fig. 2 shows a recording and reproducing system according to the invention which comprises controllable compression means. The system includes a

compression unit 22 for reducing the data rate of an input signal in dependence on the information represented by the input signal. For example, redundancy in the representation may be reduced thereby or a less accurate representation be generated with a slight loss of quality of a reproduced signal. The input signal is applied to input 21 and converted in the compression unit 22 into a compressed signal which is subsequently converted into a writing signal in the writing unit 41. The compression unit 22 is controllable via a control input 26, so that a compression ratio between the data rate on the input 21 and on the output 23 can be adapted. A simple embodiment of such a controllable compression unit for audio will omit, as required, several less significant bits, for example, reduce a 16 bits per sample audio signal to 15 or 14 bits per sample. The system may include means for analog/digital conversion for converting an analog input signal into digital form. On the output, the system may include decompression means and/or digital/analog converting means. A signal may also be compressed in dependence on the signal contents, like with DCC or MPEG audio or video compression, of which Fig. 3 shows an embodiment. The system control 46 is arranged for controlling the compression unit in dependence on the required data rate which is derived as described with reference to Fig. 6. The data rate available for the recording is directly derived from the required data rate and the available transmission rate of the system. The compression means are set so that the compressed signal does not exceed the available data rate. Not the instantaneous value, but the average value over a brief period is decisive here, because instantaneous variations are smoothed by the buffer means 47. This average value can be determined from the data rates or be indirectly derived from the store fill of the buffer means 47.

Fig. 3 shows in a diagram a compression unit for video information as is customary for MPEG2 known from ISO/IEC-13818-2. A digital video signal is applied to the input 21 and led via a difference unit 31 to a DCT unit 32 which performs a Discrete Cosine Transform in which the picture is subdivided into macroblocks. The coefficients obtained are led to a Q-unit 33 and quantized with an adjustable dividing factor for which the bits of the quotient are further processed and the rest is discarded. The quotient bits are led to the VLC unit 34 which codes the quotients which have variable lengths. In this manner, a coded picture signal having a variable bit rate is produced on the output 23. The average bit rate may be influenced by a inspection unit 39, for example, by setting the dividing factor in the Q-unit, a larger dividing factor resulting in a lower bit rate. Customary dividing factors lie between 2 and 16. A further reduction of the bit rate required for a specific picture quality is obtained by transmitting each time a group of pictures (GOP), always various difference

pictures such as advance predicted P-pictures or bidirectionally predicted B-pictures being transmitted after an independent I-picture. Based on the activity found in the reproduced pictures, the inspection unit 39 decides which picture type is generated. Fig. 3 shows in a diagram a switch 38 controlled by the inspection unit 39, which switch does not allow
5 information to pass for an I-picture and does allow the stored information of a reconstructed picture based on the coded signal to pass for a P-picture. The difference picture is then determined in difference unit 31 in which compensation for movement can also be used. A reconstructed picture, as is also formed in a receiving system, is formed via the IQ unit (Inverse Quantization), the IDCT unit (Inverse Discrete Cosine Transform) in a picture
10 memory 37. By the selection of I, B and P pictures, the inspection unit 39 has a further influence on the bit rate. A customary criterion is then, for example, the maximum instantaneous bit rate which is to be lower than the transmission capacity of the transport channel and a short-term average, which values are to remain so low that the buffer capacity in a receiving system is not exceeded.

15 In such a compression unit having a variable bit rate, the quantity of generated data depends on the contents of the received signal. Compared with a constant bit rate system, a higher average quality of a reconstructed signal is obtained with the same total quantity of generated data. According to the invention, the average bit rate can be controlled by parameter setting via the control input 26 of the inspection unit 39. The long-term average
20 bit rate is influenced via this control input 26, for example, because the inspection unit adjusts the dividing factor or the selection of I/P/B pictures. Alternatively, It is possible for a certain preprocessing to be applied (not shown in Fig. 3), such as noise filtering or the reduction of the spatial frequency contents, for which the filter parameters may then be adjusted for influencing the bit rate.

25 Fig. 4 shows a recording and reproducing system according to the invention comprising a transcoder 48. The writing means 41 have an input for receiving an input signal which may already be compressed according to certain compression rules. An example of this is an MPEG2 compressed video signal which is received, for example, via a satellite or cable network and applied to the recording and reproducing system. The
30 transcoder 48 is arranged for further compressing such a signal which has already been compressed according to certain compression rules. A transcoder may comprise, for example, a cascaded decompression unit and compression unit as shown in Fig. 3. Complementary operations may then be combined. A description of such a transcoder may be found in EP 0 690 392 (PHF 94.001). The transcoder 48 can be controlled via a control

signal 49 coming from the control means 46 for determining the degree of further compression. The transcoder 48 is coupled to the writing means 41 and receives an already compressed signal and returns a signal that is compressed even further, as required. The degree of compression is controlled in dependence on the required data rate in accordance with the control of the compression unit 22 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 shows a recording and reproducing system according to the invention comprises control means 46 for adjusting the scanning rate in dependence on the required data rate. In this embodiment of the system, the control means are arranged for adjusting the transmission capacity. In dependence on a currently required data rate (see Fig. 6c), the transmission capacity is temporarily increased, for example, because the system control establishes that the buffer means 47 become too full. For this purpose, the scanning velocity may be increased by means of a higher transport/rotation velocity of the information carrier. Reading will then take place at a proportionally faster velocity. In addition, the write clock rate can be increased, possibly in proportion to the scanning velocity. The faster reading and/or writing increases the transmission capacity of the system, causing a higher data rate to be developed for the information flow to be recorded. At a later instant, when the buffer is again empty enough, the transmission rate may be reduced to the normal value. In another embodiment there may be decided in favor of an increase of the transmission rate for other reasons, such as a desired reproduction quality, or always from the moment when two information flows are to be processed simultaneously. Advantageously, the scanning velocity is only increased if it is really necessary, because this will reduce wear, power consumption and/or heat development of the system.

In another embodiment of the system, the control means are arranged for selecting the radial position of an area for writing information of the first information flow in dependence on the required data rate. With a CD, it is customary to write information with a constant density and, therefore, a constant linear velocity (CLV). ~~When reading and writing are alternated during simultaneous recording/reproduction, the rotation velocity, however, will not be adapted or only to a minor extent in accordance with the radial position, since a fast adaptation would require a very powerful driving motor. A rotation velocity midway between the velocities corresponding with the areas to be written or read may be selected, or~~ a rotation velocity corresponding to the most inward area, while the more outward area is then scanned faster than the nominal velocity. For example, the system control according to the invention selects an area along the outside edge of the information carrier for writing a first information flow. At a later instant, when a further information flow is recorded and

this recorded area is reproduced simultaneously, it is possible to write further to the center of the disc. If the recording process is effected with the nominal scanning velocity, the area along the outer edge will be read out with a higher scanning velocity. It is then advantageous that the servo means need not be arranged for a high scanning velocity near the center of the disc, which high scanning velocity would be necessary if at a random radial position on the disc reading and/or writing were to be effected with increased scanning velocity. This would require a distinctly higher rotation velocity for areas lying more inwardly than with the same scanning velocity in an area along the outer edge of the disc. In addition, it is advantageous for the writing process always to be effected with the nominal velocity or at least a lower velocity than the reading velocity, since the quality of the writing mostly depends on the velocity and complex controls are necessary for the parameters of the writing process. Further, when areas are selected for recordings, the reproduction areas may be taken into account so that the distance to be bridged when reading is alternated by writing is not too large, because the displacement of the read/write head 42 is dead time. If the first recording is effected from the outer edge toward the center of the disc, during simultaneous reproduction a second recording may be started, for example, from the middle between outer and inner diameter of the disc area intended for recording. During long-term simultaneous recording and reproduction, both the reproduction area and the recording area will slowly move inward, so that the mutual distance continues to be limited.

Fig. 6 gives a diagrammatic representation of the possible variation with respect to time of the data rate for recording and/or reproduction in a system according to the invention. The control means of the system are arranged for determining a required data rate and controlling the recording in dependence thereon. The graphs show the time t along a t -axis in horizontal direction and the data rate d in vertical direction. The graphs are based on a system according to the invention, which has a certain transmission capacity i.e. the sum of the average number of read and written bits per time unit for alternating writing and reading, indicated by a broken line 10. The recording of the first information flow is shown from the bottom upwards from the t -axis, whereas the data rate necessary for reproducing a further information flow is plotted from the available transmission capacity 10 downwards. The curves must not overlap, because then the available transmission capacity would be exceeded. The diagrammatic representation, however, does not show the necessary margin for switching between reading and writing. This margin depends on the parameters of the respective system, such as, the displacement time of a reading/writing unit and the buffer size. Furthermore, there is observed that it is alternatively possible to simultaneously record

a further information flow instead of reproducing same, two signals then being recorded independently in separate areas. This is an advantage, for example, if the user wishes to record two television programs whose broadcast times partly overlap. The two recordings can be reproduced totally independently at a later instant or be erased or overwritten.

5 Fig. 6a first shows the recording of the signal between instants t_1 and t_2 at a data rate expressed in a curve 11 which includes the peaks 12, 13, which signal has a variable bit rate, such as, for example, an MPEG2 video signal. Then, between the instants t_3 and t_4 , a further information flow is simultaneously recorded, indicated by curves 15 and 16, and the further information flow is reproduced as shown by curve 14. During the
10 recording between t_1 and t_2 , the system could store the signal unaltered, the maximum writing velocity being reached, for example, at the peak 12. However, during recording/reproduction between t_3 and t_4 , this could lead to the available data rate for recording the further information flow 15 to drop to zero, which would lead to an unacceptable loss of quality or signal interruption during reproduction. During recording
15 between t_1 and t_2 , the data rate is therefore restricted by restricting, during the peaks 12 and 13, the data rate according to curve 11 to half the transmission capacity. A future required recording data rate between t_3 and t_4 during simultaneous reproduction is then set to 50% of the total transmission capacity. Obviously, it is also possible to accept a lower required data rate, for example, 45% or 30%. In that case there is a slightly greater chance that the further
20 information flow is to be reduced strongly during simultaneous recording and reproduction, while there is still an acceptable quality available produced by the minimum available 30% or 45%. In contrast, during the recording of the first information flow between t_1 and t_2 , a less strong compression is needed, in this example up to 55% or 70%. The choice of the future required data rate may be attuned to the properties of the signals to be recorded, an optimum
25 being chosen between the less strong compression of the signal currently to be recorded and the risk of stronger compression of a signal possibly to be recorded in the future.

 Also during simultaneous recording and reproduction between t_3 and t_4 , the future required data rate may be taken into account again when recording. In that case, the data rate will be restricted during peak 16.

30 Fig. 6b shows the recording of a first information flow which has a predetermined time duration from t_5 to t_8 , while a required data rate as for Fig. 6a is taken into account. The received signal now has a fixed data rate which from t_5 to t_6 is reduced to about 50% of the transmission capacity. After an instant t_6 , which lies between t_5 and t_8 , the expectation is taken into account that simultaneous recording and reproduction will no longer

take place. This may be inferred from the following calculation. If the user starts the reproduction mode, whereas the program has not completely terminated, for example, at instant t_7 after t_6 , he will first watch the part that is recorded, but not yet reproduced. In this period the recording is continued, thus a time period t_7-t_5 is available for simultaneous
5 recording and reproduction. If reproduction starts at t_7 after half t_8-t_5 , the part already recorded t_7-t_5 extends to beyond t_8 and from the instant t_6 onward, midway between t_5 and t_8 , the recording may be effected at the full data rate 19. Obviously, this rate is again reduced to 50% after reproduction is started from t_7 onwards. Since the user may also decide to skip part of the recording during reproduction, for example, a commercial in a recorded
10 film, the expected future required data rate may be reduced with a slight delay and in certain steps denoted 18. The program may also overrun its time, so that t_8 is to shift. This may be indicated by the respective source, such as by the PDC system (Program Delivery Code) in which a television transmitter co-transmits time information relating to modified start and end times. During reproduction, the data rate obviously corresponds to the recording, while an
15 additional data rate and, therefore, a higher quality of the reproduced signal is available during the time interval 29 which corresponds to t_6-t_7 .

The expectation about the actual simultaneous recording and reproduction at a later instant may also be derived from other details, such as, for example, from the part of the day in which the later instant will occur. The system has a day/date clock as is
20 customary in a VCR. Reproduction after midnight, for example, is less likely, especially on a working day. The system may also utilize experience data about the user's watching behavior. A general average may then be used or the system may intelligently derive its data from the user's real actions. If simultaneous recording and reproduction at a later instant is less likely, a lower required data rate can be selected while yet a minimum data rate is
25 available. In the unlikely event that yet reproduction and recording are to take place simultaneously, a recording will be possible indeed, but with a limited quality.

Fig. 6c shows the reproduction of an already recorded information flow at a data rate according to curve 32 (from the transmission capacity 10 downwards), and simultaneous recording of an input information flow. The currently required data rate is
30 derived from the data rate necessary for reproducing the already recorded information flow. The currently required data rate is subtracted from the transmission capacity and, as a result, a remaining data rate shown by curve 30 is available for recording the input information flow. It is advantageous to utilize this remaining data rate as much as possible for recording, for example, by adapting the compression ratio in the controllable compression means as

described above. Also the transmission capacity can be adapted as described with reference to Fig. 5. From instant t10 onwards, the transmission capacity is increased temporarily, so that additional data rate 31 is available for the information flow to be recorded. At instant t11, the transmission rate may be reduced to the normal value, for example, when the buffer
5 has become sufficiently empty.

CLAIMS:

1. A recording and reproducing system for recording a first information flow on an information carrier and simultaneously processing a further information flow via the information carrier, the system comprising a reading/writing unit for scanning the information carrier with the scanning velocity either for writing or reading information on
5 the information carrier, and buffer means for buffering information during recording and/or reproduction, characterized in that the system comprises control means for controlling the recording of the first information flow in dependence on a required data rate for processing the further information flow.
2. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized
10 in that the required data rate is a future required data rate which is to be available for recording a further information flow at a later instant while the recorded first information flow is simultaneously reproduced at that instant.
3. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 2, characterized
15 in that the future required data rate depends on an expectation about actual simultaneous recording while the recorded first information flow is reproduced at the later instant.
4. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 3, characterized
in that the control means are arranged for determining the expectation in dependence on a remaining time period for recording and a time period of a recorded, but not reproduced, part of the first information flow.
- 20 5. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized
in that the required data rate is a currently required data rate for an information flow to be reproduced or recorded simultaneously.
6. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 5,
characterized in that the system comprises compression means for controllably compressing
25 the first information flow during recording and in that the control means are arranged for controlling the compression means in dependence on the required data rate.
7. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 6, characterized
in that the compression means comprise a transcoder for additionally compressing, according to predefined compression rules, a first information flow already compressed according to

the compression rules.

8. Recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 1 or 5, characterized in that the control means are arranged for controlling the scanning velocity in dependence on the required data rate.
- 5 9. A recording and reproducing system as claimed in Claim 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 or 8, in which the information carrier is disc-shaped, characterized in that the control means are arranged for selecting the radial position of an area for writing information of the first information flow in dependence on the required data rate.

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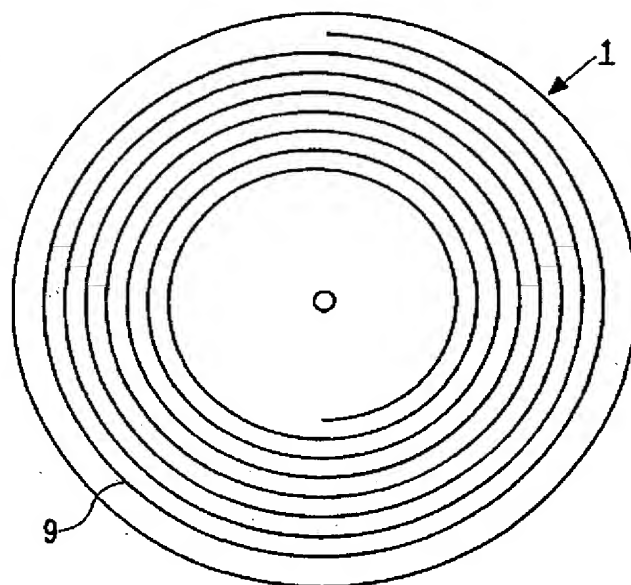


FIG. 1

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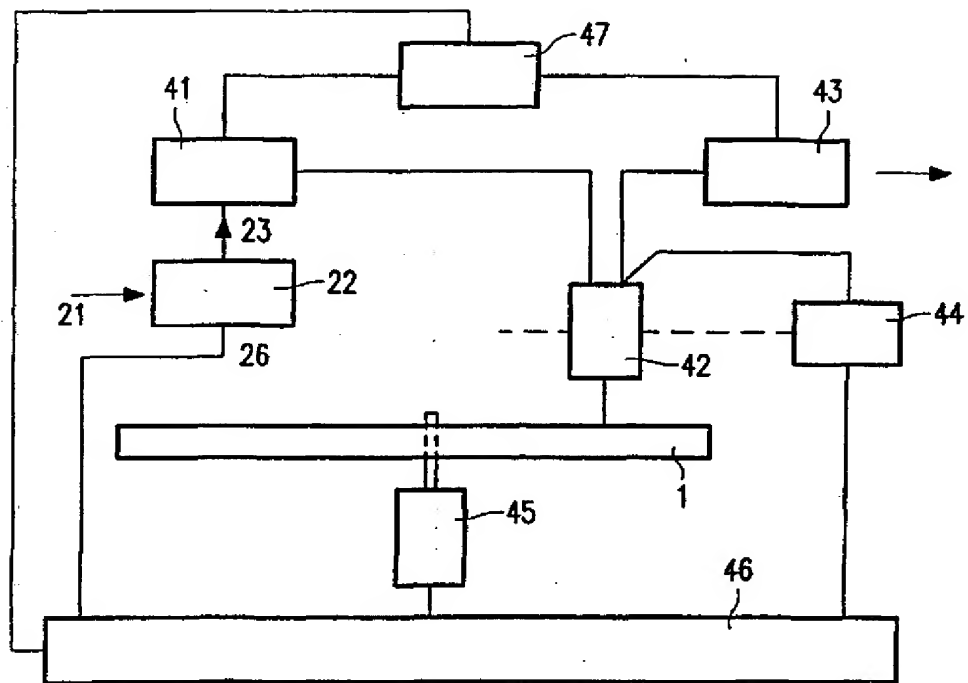


FIG. 2

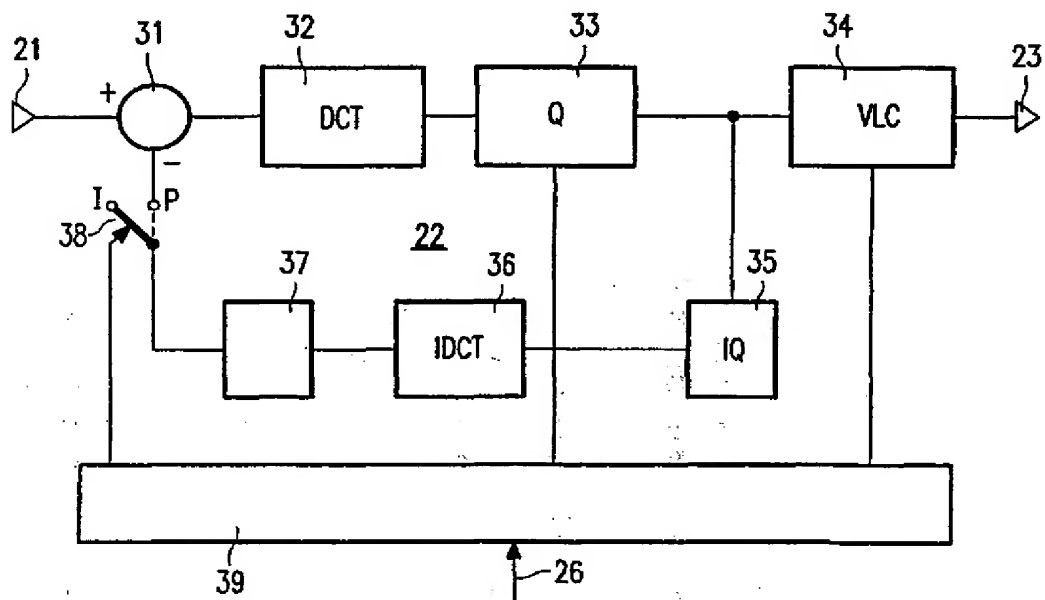


FIG. 3

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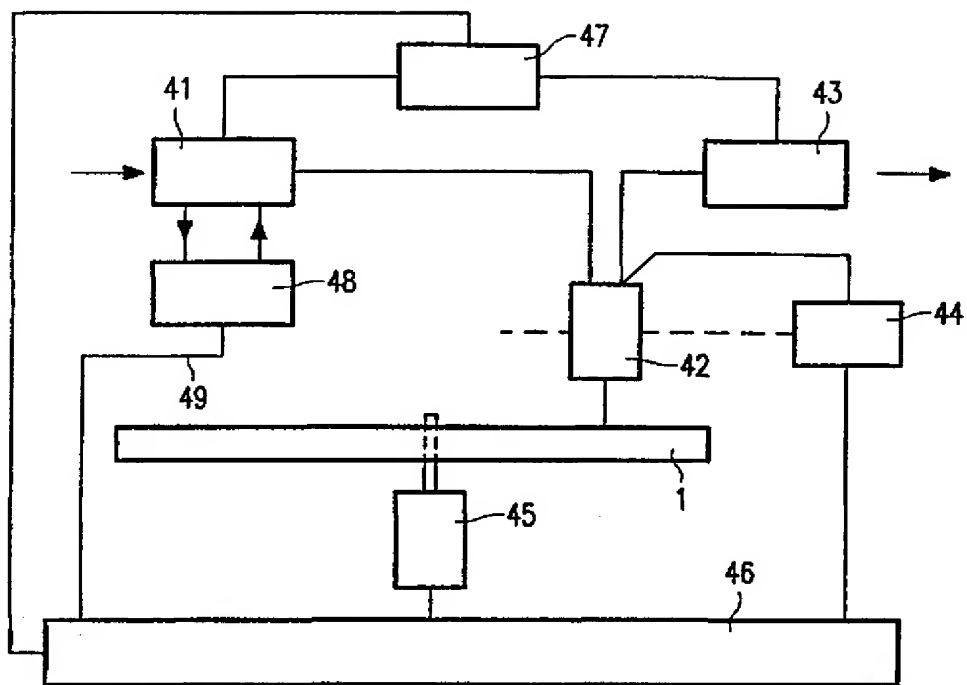


FIG. 4

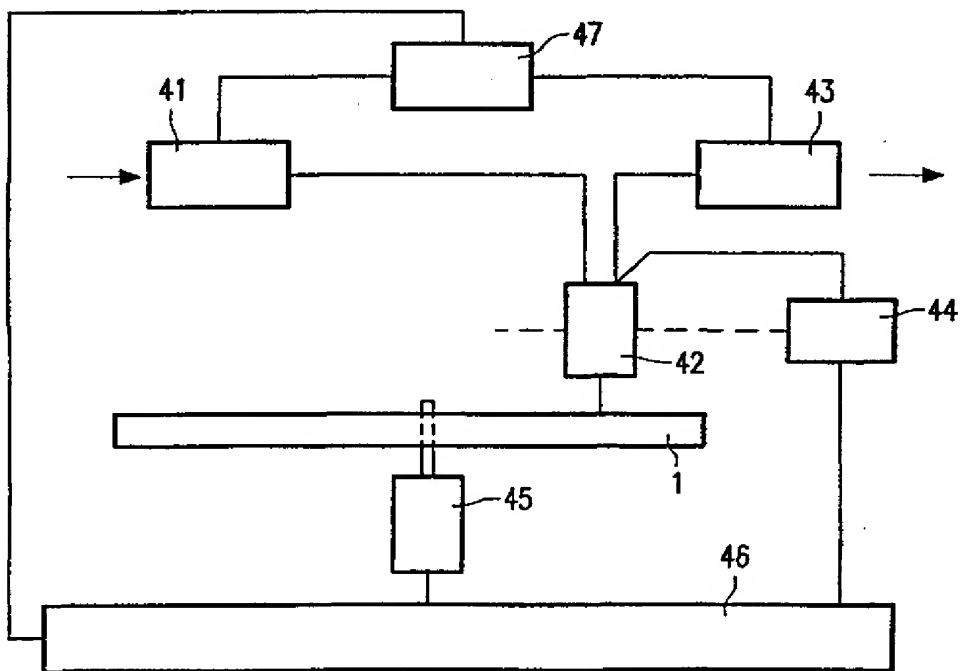


FIG. 5

4/4

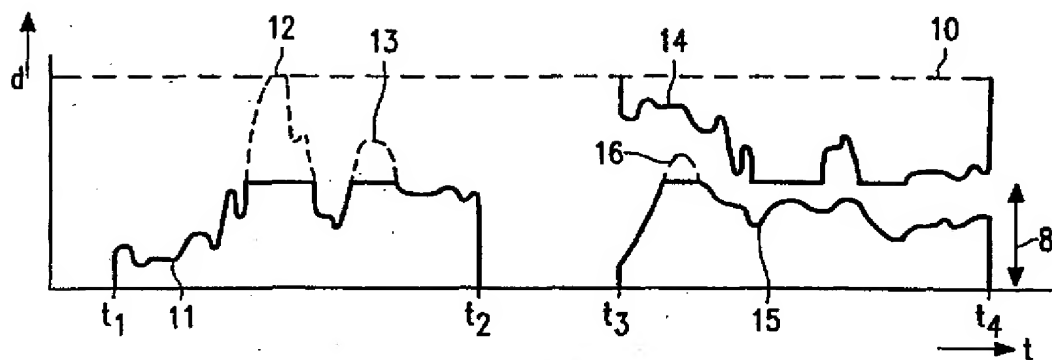


FIG. 6A

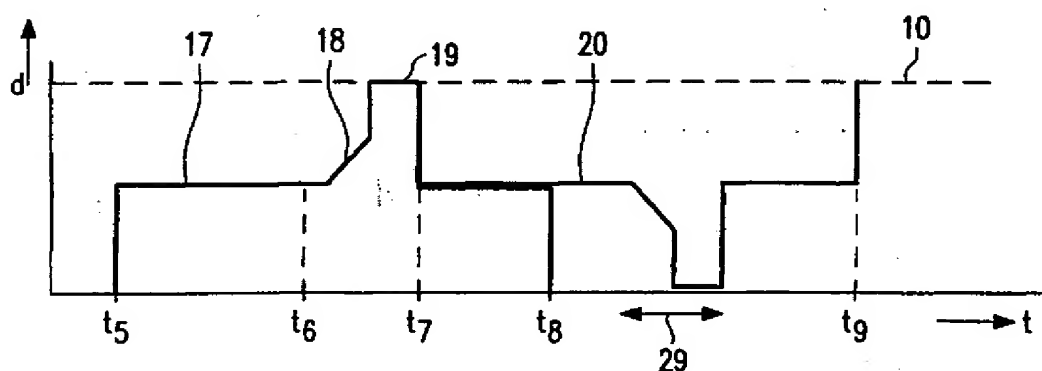


FIG. 6B

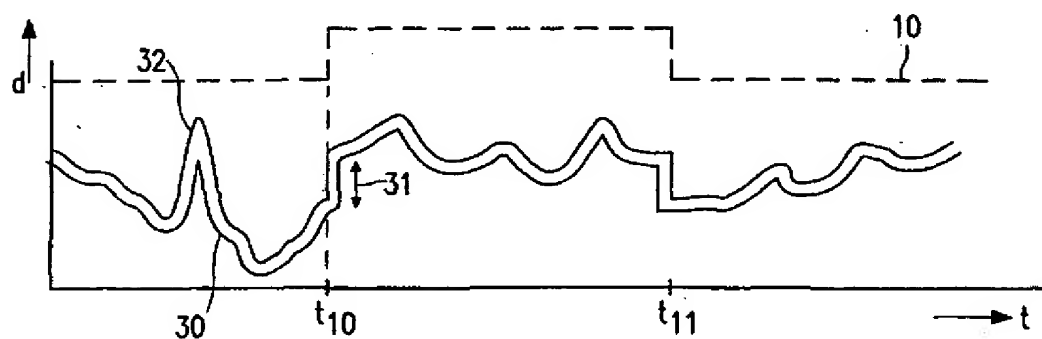


FIG. 6C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 97/01025

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: G11B 20/00 // G06F 5/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: G11B, G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPAT, WPI, JAPIO

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 7141774 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 2 June 1995 (02.06.95), abstract --	1-9
X	JP 8046907 A (HITACHI LTD), 16 February 1996 (16.02.96), abstract --	1-9
A	EP 0594241 A1 (PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.), 27 April 1994 (27.04.94) --	1-9
A	US 5343452 A (SHIGEMI MAEDA ET AL), 30 August 1994 (30.08.94) --	1-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 February 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB 97/01025

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	JP 7231427 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 29 August 1995 (29.08.95), abstract --	1-9
A	JP 7336639 A (HITACHI LTD), 22 December 1995 (22.12.95), abstract -- -----	1-9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

03/02/98

International application No.
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JP	7336639	A	22/12/95	NONE		